

the March Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, medical care component, Baltimore (U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics – CPI Detailed Report). Further, the department should develop regulations governing the use of this standard.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that the Developmental Disabilities Administration ensure that the 1% Cost of Living Adjustment contained in the fiscal 1997 budget is fully funded and implemented for community services providers. The resources budgeted for this COLA are not to be applied to any other purpose.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that undisputed billings submitted by community services providers be processed promptly and payments made within 30 days of receipt. To the extent that failure to do so on the part of the department results in a documented financial burden to a provider in the form of reasonable costs associated with interest payments on line-of-credit or loan borrowings, those costs are to be assumed by the department. Further, to the extent that the department must assume these interest costs, they may not be paid from funds appropriated for the community services programs, but rather from general funds appropriated for administrative programs.

SUMMARY

Total General Fund Appropriation	195,779,824
Total Special Fund Appropriation	1,500,000
Total Federal Fund Appropriation	66,408,979
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Total Appropriation	263,688,803
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